

U.S. Marshals Service's Response to Questions Concerning Reduction of Prisoner Population in the Columbia County Jail

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The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) houses its prisoners in the Federal Bureau of Prisons Federal Detention Center (FDC) in Sheridan, Oregon as well as 16 local jails throughout the state of Oregon. The USMS enters into Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) with these local jail facilities to compensate them for all costs associated with housing federal prisoners.

For many years, the Multnomah County Jail has been the primary IGA facility in the Portland metropolitan area. Other outlying IGA facilities, including the Columbia County Jail, have typically been utilized as overflow facilities during times when the USMS prisoner population expands, or when less prisoner beds are available at FDC Sheridan and/or in the Multnomah County system.

Recently, the USMS has experienced a declining prisoner population. This, combined with the fact that both FDC Sheridan and Multnomah County have more prisoner beds available has made it necessary for the USMS to reduce its dependence on outlying facilities.

Prisoner population is largely unpredictable and fluctuations are not uncommon. The USMS pays a daily rate to IGA facilities for actual costs associated with each prisoner housed in their facilities. These fees are not designed or intended as a source of revenue beyond that necessary to house federal prisoners. The USMS greatly appreciates and values its relationship with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and its other IGA partners and federal prisoner population reductions are in no way intended to adversely impact their daily operations.